

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Peptides excellent for promoting cell growth~~ A peptide having cell growth promoting activity, comprising any of the following (1) to (8) amino acid sequences:

| (1) Val Ile Thr Thr Asp Ser Asp Gly Asn Glu SEQ ID NO. 1,
| 5 10

| (2) Asn Ile Asn Asp Phe Asp Glu Asp SEQ ID NO. 2,
| 5

| (3) Ala Ala Ser Ser Val Ser Ser Ala Ser Ser
| 5 10
| Arg Ser Tyr Asp Tyr Ser Arg Arg Asn Val
| 15 20
| Arg Lys Asn SEQ ID NO. 3,

| (4) Gly Ser Ser Gly Phe Gly Pro Tyr Val Ala
| 5 10
| His Gly Gly Tyr Ser Gly Tyr Glu Tyr Ala
| 15 20
| Trp Ser Ser Glu Ser Asp Phe Gly Thr SEQ ID NO. 4,
| 25

(5) Tyr Gly Trp Gly Asp Gly Gly Tyr Gly Ser

5

10

Asp Ser _____ SEQ ID NO. 5,

(6) Asp Glu Tyr Val Asp Asn _____ SEQ ID NO. 6,
5

(7) Val Glu Thr Ile Val Leu Glu Glu Asp Pro
5 10

Tyr Gly His Glu Asp Ile Tyr Glu Glu Asp SEQ ID NO. 7, and
15 20

(8) Asp Asp Gly Phe Val Leu Asp Gly Gly Tyr
5 10

Asp Ser Glu _____ SEQ ID NO. 8.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of separating and obtaining ~~peptides excellent for promoting a peptide having cell growth promoting activity~~ by molecular weight fractionation ~~after comprising the steps of performing~~ hydrolysis of undegraded silk protein from a domesticated silkworm or undegraded silk fibroin from a wild silkworm belonging to Antheraea and separating and fractionating peptides from the noncrystalline portions of the silk protein.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~separating and obtaining the peptides excellent for promoting cell growth according to~~ Claim 4, wherein the hydrolysis is carried out by using a dilute acid, hydroxylamine or a protease.

6. (Currently Amended) A cell growth-promoting agent comprising the peptide ~~compositions according to~~ ~~Claim 1~~ composition of Claim 16.

7. (Currently Amended) A cell growth-promoting agent comprising the peptides ~~according to~~ ~~Claim 3~~ peptide of Claim 3.

8. (Currently Amended) A cell adhesion agent comprising the peptide ~~compositions according to Claim 1~~
composition of Claim 16.

9. (Currently Amended) A cell adhesion agent comprising the ~~peptides according to peptide of Claim 3.~~

10. (Currently Amended) A wound healing promoting agent comprising the peptide ~~compositions according to~~
~~Claim 1~~composition of Claim 16.

11. (Currently Amended) A wound healing promoting agent comprising the ~~peptides according to peptide of Claim 3.~~

12. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic material comprising the peptide ~~compositions according to Claim 1~~composition of
Claim 16.

13. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic material comprising the ~~peptides according to Claim 3~~peptide of Claim 3.

14. (Currently Amended) A cell culture substrate comprising the peptide ~~compositions according to Claim 1~~
composition of Claim 16.

15. (Currently Amended) A cell culture substrate comprising the ~~peptides according to peptide of Claim 3.~~

16. (New) A peptide composition having cell growth promoting activity, said peptide composition comprising partial peptides of one or more peptide chains selected from peptide chains forming noncrystalline portions constituting silk protein and having an amino acid sequence selected from the following amino acid sequences:

(1) Val Ile Thr Thr Asp Ser Asp Gly Asn Glu SEQ ID NO. 1,
5 10

(2) Asn Ile Asn Asp Phe Asp Glu Asp SEQ ID NO. 2,
5

(3) Ala Ala Ser Ser Val Ser Ser Ala Ser Ser
5 10
Arg Ser Tyr Asp Tyr Ser Arg Arg Asn Val
15 20
Arg Lys Asn SEQ ID NO. 3,

(4) Gly Ser Ser Gly Phe Gly Pro Tyr Val Ala
5 10
His Gly Gly Tyr Ser Gly Tyr Glu Tyr Ala
15 20
Trp Ser Ser Glu Ser Asp Phe Gly Thr SEQ ID NO. 4,
25

(5) Tyr Gly Trp Gly Asp Gly Gly Tyr Gly Ser
5 10
Asp Ser SEQ ID NO. 5,

(6) Asp Glu Tyr Val Asp Asn SEQ ID NO. 6,
5

(7) Val Glu Thr Ile Val Leu Glu Glu Asp Pro
5 10
Tyr Gly His Glu Asp Ile Tyr Glu Glu Asp SEQ ID NO. 7, and
15 20

(8) Asp Asp Gly Phe Val Leu Asp Gly Gly Tyr
5 10
Asp Ser Glu SEQ ID NO. 8.

17. (New) A peptide consisting of up to forty amino acid residues and comprising an amino acid selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS. 3-8.

18. (New) A peptide composition having cell growth promoting activity, said peptide composition comprising partial peptides of one or more peptide chains selected from the respective peptide chains of the N-terminal portion, the noncrystalline portion and the C-terminal portion constituting the H-chain of silk fibroin from a domesticated silkworm, the peptide chain of the L-chain thereof, and the respective peptide chains of the N-terminal portion, noncrystalline portion and C-terminal portion constituting the silk-fibroin from a wild silkworm belonging to the genus *Antherea*, the partial peptides comprising an amino acid sequence of from 4 to 40 amino acid residues selected from SEQ ID NOS. 1-8.